



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Business Leaders Support the “New Employee Verification Act” (H.R. 5515)

April 3, 2008

Dear Colleague,

We want to bring to your attention a letter by key business leaders expressing their strong support for H.R. 5515, the New Employee Verification Act (NEVA). They, along with the National Federation of Independent Business, recognize that the bipartisan NEVA offers a unique solution to the growing problem of employment verification and worksite enforcement.

The NEVA replaces the flawed I-9 employment verification process with a new employment verification system. Employers are required to submit the information of their newly hired employees through their state's new hire reporting process already used by approximately 90% of employers. The Social Security Administration would provide virtually instantaneous work authorization for U.S. citizens, and the Department of Homeland Security would provide the same for non-citizens. The NEVA also creates a voluntary secure electronic verification system, whereby private sector companies – certified by the government – would use publicly available information to authenticate the identities of U.S. workers and then safeguard their identities using cutting-edge biometric technology.

Employers and human resource professionals are critical to ensuring a legal workforce, but they lack the proper tools to verify an employee's work authorization. Now, as a number of their leaders have stated in their letter of endorsement, “Congress now has a solution. The New Employee Verification Act... holds the promise of a new generation of employment verification,” and described the bill as “common sense, critical legislation.”

For more information about the NEVA and to read the letter of support, please visit the website of the Ways and Means Republicans at <http://republicans.waysandmeans.house.gov/>. If you have any further questions or would like to cosponsor the bill, please contact Kathleen Black (Johnson personal office) at 5-4201 or Caryn B. Schenewerk at 5-2542 (Giffords personal office). Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

/s Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress